ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER



ALEXANDRIA, VA.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19.

OFFICE OF THE GAZETTE, ALEXANDRIA, Va., Nov. 23, 1874.

Statements of indebtedness are being sent to subscribers of the Gazette who are in arrears, and a notice stating that payment in advance will be required hereafter has appeared in all the issues of the paper. The subscription rates on the first page of each edition furnish a guide to the payment to any particular date, so that there can be no reason for complaint if some who may desire it fail to receive the Gazette after the 1st of January, 1875.

State Finance.

By a resolution of the House of Delegates the Treasurer and Auditor of the State were directed to frame a tax-bill and submit it to that body at the present session. Two distinct propositions have been presented, one drawn law and the charter. The board, after a by Mr. Hunter, the Treasurer: the other by Mr. Taylor, the Auditor. In communicating the bill, which embodies Mr. Hunter's views, of communication has been established and the revenue increased; that if the privilege of land-Messrs. Hunter and Taylor say:

"In a report of certain commissioners appointed by the State of New York, at the head of whom was Mr. David A. Wells, it was urged with great ability that it was ust and good policy to exempt personal property almost entirely tax equal in rate to that upon rea ty upon thirty from taxation, and in lieu of that to impose a taken. There must be some certain fund upon per cent. of the assessed value of realty in the towns, which was said to be about equal in amount to the rent in the cities and about equal deavoring to place all these to the credit of the amount to the rent in the cities and about equal in value to the personal property exempted from taxation in the cities. Such a tax, it was said, would yield more money than was derived iron all the personal property, and fall for the most part on the same person, if payable by the renter or occupier of the premises."

'Unhappily, however, there is a provision in our Constitution which requires us to tax personal capital to a certain extent. This we pro-pose to do, but in a mode which makes the owner pay an equivalent without working any special injury to tue business of the country. We propose to remove the tax upon capital used, invested, or employed in any trace or business, and also upon the articles include 1 in schedule B, apon which the tax is mainly paid by the farmer or land-owner, who, in this country are genrally the same person. For these taxes we propose to substitute one of one-half per cent. on 25 per cent. of the assessed va ue of all realty in the counties, and on 30 per cent of the assessed value of realty on the cities. The tax to be paid by the occupier of the premises, whether tenant or owner, unless, indeed, the tenant fails to pay, in which case the tax must be paid by the owner, with a right of recourse to the tenant if he should choose to av il himself of that right. By a table carefully made out from the returns of 18,3 it is found that the taxes actually paid on the omitted articles are not more than \$21,000 or \$31,000 less than those which it is proposed to substi-

"The bill of 1873, as it now stands, with this change would yield a little more than was received from that bill. In order to make the revenue ample we propose the following addi-We wish to strike out all in that bill in regard to the distillation and rectification of liquors, and to substitute the section herewith transmitted, which proposes a tax of thirty cents on whiskey, or other ardent spirits, wine, or any mixture of them. This section ought to give a gross revenue of \$500,000 or of \$900,000 pess that he was unable to read his reply, and y a tax which will be as readily paid as any otner that could be levied. It appears from the report of the Controller that in the year ending June 30, 1873, there were distilled from materials other than fru t in the United States 68 -236,567 gallons. (See page 4 Report of Commissioner of Internal Revenue.) The population of Virginia, according to the last census, was about one-thirtieth of the whole populalation of the United States. Supposing that population to be average consumers of whiskey, then that one thirtieth would consume about 2,630,000 gallons of whiskey, which at a tax of thirty cents per gallan would yield about \$700,-000 gross revenue. The same tax upon other ardent spirits and wine, and ten cents a gallen upon mait liquors and cider, would yield pro-bably from \$100,000 to \$200,000 more. The entire yield of gross revenue from that tax would amount to a sum between \$800,000 and \$900,000 of gross revenue."

We also suggest as a substitute for the income-tax a stamp-tax upon contracts, by which the United States, from 1866 to 1872 inclusive, derived an average of between \$15,000,-000 an \$15,00 0,000. If Virginia adopted a like law she would probably receive \$500,000 if her population were average consumers of the articles proposed to be stamped. This would enabie her to repeal her income-tax, which, although as just as any other law, is emmently unpopular. Should she adopt this tax by stamps upon contracts we recommend the repeal of the income tax, which has only yielded about \$33,140. It is hardly probable that her people are average consumers of the articles to be stamped. Half that proportion, however, would yield, probably, \$250 000, which sum is far greater than the revenue derived from income "The bill of 1873, as hereby proposed to be amended, would yield, we believe, a larger rev-

enue than any tax bill passed since the war.' We do not recommend the stamp-tax upon contracts, but merely suggest it as a substitute for the income-tax should the Legislature desire to repeal the latter. In comparing the difference between the amount of tax tion remitted and that a died-a difference not large now-it will be well to remember that the omitted articles will probably increase more rapidly in number and amount than the value of real est ite. In presenting the bills drawn by Mr. Taylor,

Messrs, Hunter and Taylor say: "Pursuant to a resolution of the House of Delegates, the un-dersigned respectfully submit a bill providing general provisions is relation to assessors and commissioners of the revenue, and the asses ment of taxes on persons, property, income, li censes, &c.,' and 'a bill for the assessment of taxes on persons, property, income, licenses, &c., and imposing taxes thereon for the support of the Government and public free schools, and to pay the interest on the public debt."

These bills are based upon the laws now in force, and are those referred to by the Auditor of Public Accounts in his report of 1873-'4. touching defects in the revenue laws, and the ones for which the Treasurer has prepared an a ternate proposition and assessment and taxbill, which is submitted in another report.'

"In preparing the assessment bill it has been thought best to eliminate from the present law all those general provisions which do not require an annual revision and embody them in one bill, which is proposed to be permanent, so as to avoid the time, labor, and cost of such annual revision, which is very great. In the bill referring specifically to the assessment and taxation of persons, property, income, licenses, &c., we venture to suggest essential changes in some of the provisions of the present law which relate to licenses, believing as we do that they will yield a large, if not a larger revenue, and be exempt from the criticism of unconstitutionality, op-

pression, &c." The Auditor proceeds on the supposition that the Supreme Court of Appeals will declare the merchants' license-tax constitutional, but he recommends several important modifications, such as imposing the tax upon sales instead of

conspiracy to injury his standing as a minister. | Handles.

Mount Vernon.-We have received from Judge H. W. Thomas a copy of his report as President of the Board of Visitors to Mount

Vernon. The report says: When it is remembered that, by the efforts of the ladies who compose this association, the sum of \$2.0 000, the purchase price of Mount Vernon, has been paid, the grounds enclosed and beautified, a new wharf built, the mansion house thoroughly repaired, and that they are now engaged in replacing the old colonades with new ones of the same antique style in which they were originally built by Washington himself, the board can but congratulate the ladies of the Union in having such able, zealous and efficient workers at the head of their association. The board in their last annual repert mention-

ed the fact of the association having conceived the idea of each of the original States furnish ing a room in the mansion house with antique furniture, and as far as possible to procure ar ticles once used by Washington himself. The beard is happy to announce t at this idea is being practically carried into effect-many articles of ancient style having already been obtained. The worthy Vice-regent from Virginia is most z alous and indefatigable in her efforts, and has made valuable collections for her room, among them a table once belonging to General Washington. At the instance of this same Vice-regent, the council at its last session passed resolutions with a view to collecting at Mount Vernon a library, consisting exclusively of books to which the name, character, principles and fame of Washington have given rise, with-out regard to the na ionality or language of their

In reference to complaints in regard to the arrangement made with the owners of the steamer Arrow, by which that steamer is allowed to land passengers at the wharf at Mount Vernon, the report says:

The complaint has been made against the as. sociation that this is a monopoly, that other vessels are not allowed to land, &c., and that this contract with the Arrow is in violation of thorough investigation of the whole matter, are of the opinion that the contract is a judicious one; that by it a certain, safe and regular line ing at the wharf was indiscrimately granted and visitors allowed to be carried there, the result would be to break up the Arrow line and thus destroy the great (and only certain) source of revenue to the association, thereby redering them powerless to go forward in the execution of the great and noble work they have under-There must be some certain fund upon endowment fund.

The Addresses.

At the reception of King Kalakaua at the Capitol yesterday, Mr. Cameron introduced him as follows, the members standing:

"Mr. Speaker, I have the honor to present to you His Majesty, the King of Hawaii."
The Speaker, then addressed the King as

"Your Majesty: On behalf of the Amerian Congress I welcome you to these halls. The Senators from our States and the Representatives of our people unite in cordial congratulations upon your auspicious journey and on the expression of the gratification and pleasure afforded by your presence in the Capitol of the nation as the nation's guest. Your Majesty's appearnace amongst us is the first instance in which a reigning sovereign has set foot upon the soil of the United States, and it is a significent circumstance that the visit comes to us from the West and not from the East. Probably no single event could more striking'y typity the country's progress in Your Majesty's conutry and in our own than the scene here now transpiring. The rapid growth of the republic on its western coast has greatly enlarged our intercourse with your insular kingdom, and has led us all to a know. edge of your wisdom and beneficence as a ruler and your exalted virtues as a man. Our whole people cheerish for your subjects the most friendly regard. They trust and believe that the relations of the two countries will always remain as peaceful as the great sea that rolls between us

-uniting and not dividing." The King had a momentary conference with one of his attendants, Chancellor Alico, and then the latter expressed his regret that the King was so afflicted with a cold and hoarse

proceeded to read it for him as follows: Mr. Speaker: For your kinds words of welcome I most cordially thank you. For this distinguished mark of confi ence I tender to the honorable Senate and House of Representatives my highest sentiments of regard. It is in accord with the very courteous and generous treat ment which I have received from the Executive Department of the Government and from all the people whom I have had the pleasure to meet since I landed on the shores of the Pacific. I appreciate the complimentary terms in which the honorable Speaker has referred to me per sonally. For our success in government, and for our progress in a higher civilization we are very much indebted to the Government and people of this great country. Your laws and your civilization have been in a great degree our model. I reciprocate most cordially the hope for the continuance and growth of friendly relations between the two countries. I am most happy, gentlemen to meet you on this occasion.

A dispatch from Portsmouth, Virginia, says: 'In consequence of the scarcity of work much suffering is reported in Portsmouth. A massmeeting of the citizens was held to-night, and relief societies organized. The Council also met and appropriated money for the relief of the poor. Portsmouth is largely dependent on the Government for work, and operations are almost entirely suspended in the pavy-yard. An order has been received from Washington discharging the last remnant of workmen in the construction department of the navy-yard."

The Richmond Dispatch, in an editorial article on the Merchants' tax says truly that all legislation that assumes that farmer and merchapt are antagonistic to one another is wrong and vicious. There are no two callings more congenial and mutually dependent upon one another. They should ever meet and act in harmony, as the surest way to promote the general prosperity.

The President gave a reception to King

Kalakaua, at the White House, last night. Scribner's Monthly for January has a Christmas sketch by L. Clarke Davis, entitled "My Night in a Stage-Coach, " a "Christmas Sug gestion," and "A Christmas Sleigh-ride," the latter by F. R. Stockton. In this number begins Dr. Holland's new serial, "The Story of Sevenouks" with an illustration by Sol. Eytinge. The first installment of Maj. Powell's account of his descent of the Calorado is given, with striking illustrations; also the beginning of a series of "Old Letters," written from London in the time of William IV., and now for the first time published. The present installment is accompanied by an original portrait sketch of Rogers, the poet. "Travels in South America, " the opening article of the " Monthv. " is effectively illustrated and interesting. Besides these contributions there is " A Bouquet of Japanese Verses," by Charles A, De-Kay; "A New Solution of an Old Puzzle, by Francis Gerry Fairfield; "Bazaine's Prisby Maud Christiani; "Hereditary Foes," by Miss Osgood, illustrated by Miss truth in the charge. The investigation was Hallock; continuations of Saxe Holm's "My then postponed till to-morrow.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

To show thevery age and body of the Times' In the German Parliament, yestterday, during the consideration of appropriations for the Foreign Office, Herr Windhorst opposed the grant for the secret service, and moved to strike making a dismal total of \$220,886,39, which

it out. Herr Benningsten replied that the is rather a heavy indebtedness for one little motion was simply an attack on Bismarck, in county. whose person the Ultramontanes unceasingly and bitterly assailed the German Empire and National policy. He asked that the Reichstag pass a vote of confidence in the Chancellor by rejecting the motion. A division took place, and Wendhorst's motion was defeated by 71 to 199 Prince Bismarck entered the Reichstag immediately after the vote on Her Wendhort's motion was appounced.

The investigation into the manner in which the Pacific Mail Steamship Comprny obtained a subsidy of \$1,000,000 for ten years from Congress, is being conducted by the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives. Stockwell, the former President of the company, and Irwin, his agent, disposed of \$750,000 belonging to the company, and there are grave suspicions that members of Congress got a portion of this money. The testimony of Irwin has not yet been made

The Senate of Arkansas, yesterday, in Committee of the Whole, adopted a bill creating a State Board of Finance, with authority to issue \$5,000,000 in bonds, for the purpose of taking up the floating indebtedness of the State, and procuring money to pay the current expenses of the government during the ensuing year. State lands are to be mortgaged as security for the payment of the bonds.

Archbishop Bayley, of Baltimore, yesterday, ordained cleven graduates of St. Mary's Semipary (Catholic) as deacons, preparatory to their ordination as priests, which ceremony will take place to-morrow at the Cathedral. Among paster of Mount Calvary P. E. Church of Bal- read. timore, and Rev. F. Fowler, late member of the Society of Friends.

In the case of Mrs. Lucy D. Fisk, wife and administrator of the late Jas. Fisk, jr., against the State Insurance Company of Jersey City, time. before the United States Circuit Court at Trenton, to recover amount of policy on the Fith Avenue Theatre, New York, yesterday, the Court directed a non suit to be entered.

A report is published in a Poughkeepsie paper that the Vulcan Company's Iron Works managers are reficent, but it was learned that the employes had not been paid for two months. and quit work on that account. The impression prevailes that the concern has failed.

Two lawyers of Havana fought a duel yes terday. After four shots had been exchanged ville. the challenger fell dead with a bullet through his brain. The quarrel grew out of a newspaper publication by the challenged party reflect- mated at \$1.800,000. ing on the professional conduct of the chal-

Messrs. Foster, Phelps and Potter, will start to New Orleans in a few days for the purpose of investigating the condition of affairs in that State. Another sub-committee will leave for Vicksburg on the 26th inst.

Early vesterday moreing the Hochelaga burglars escaped.

train on the Charleston, Columbia and Auguscars were thrown into the creek by a broken rail. Novody was hurt. Damage \$5,000.

His Excellency Jushie Yoshide Kiyonari terday as the Edvoy Extraordinary and Minister Pienipotentiary of his Majesty the Emperor of Japau.

ably require an act of Congress to authorize its the range south from Rock Enon Springs.

Judge McClure, who represents the Brooks party, concluded his argument on Arkansas Reading Coal and Iron Company about it, and affairs before the Committee on Southern Outrages, yesterday.

A fire at Napicrville, Dupage county, Ill., yesterday, destroyed five business places on is completed to Rock Enon and Capon Springs Main street, including the postoffice. Total loss | the iron ore could be taken to Alexandria, and

The Charges Against Stowell. Washington, Dec. 18.—The House Com-

mittee on Naval Affairs, to-day, commenced the investigation of charges against Represencadetship. Joseph G. Beattie tesufied he resided near Richmond, Va.; that his step son, O. J. Schoolcraft, had been very anxious to in February, 1873, a man named Graham had were facilities, I am positive that I could disbeen introduced to him and had told him that pose of at least one thousand tons a day the he thought he could arrange for the appoint- year round. ment of his siep son, but that it would east a considerable amount of money, which would be spent for party purposes. Graham also said that the appointment was in the hands of Mr. Stowell, but that he (Graham) was chairman of the district committee in Stowell's district and could induce him to give the appointment, but that the boy would have to procure a domicil in Stowell's district; the boy did so and got the appointment, and the witness paid to Graham \$1.700 for it; witness did not know Mr. Stowell in the matter at all, and was not aware that he had ever seen him till yesterday.

E. M. Webber testified that on the 14th of last May Graham came to him and said Stowell had prevented money being paid to the Picomont Railroad Company for mail service, as some question affecting Southern railroads was at that time pending in Congress. Graham, acting to behalf of the Picdmont railroad, said Stowell had not served him well, and thereforc he was going to take revenge unless Stowell should withdraw his opposition. Graham told him his revenge would consist in exposing bert, Grand King; R. S. Chew, Grand the fact that Stowell had sold a cadetship and received seventeen hundred dollars for it. Witness, at the request of Graham, informed Stow-ell that Graham would expose him unless he Grand Captain of Host; S. M. Bowman, P. ell that Graham would expose him unless he withdrew his opposition to the railroad pay. Stowell denied he had ever received a dollar. Witness informed Stowell if he would with draw his opposition it would much gratify the road, and on that ground Stowell went to the Postoffice Department the same afternoon and withdrew his objection, when Graham received pay for the company. Stowell was indignant and much interested in the proceedings of the when witness told him Graham said Stowell had received money for a cadetship.

State Senator Lathrop, representing the distrie: from which the cadet was appointed, having been sworn, said he knew nothing personally about the matter but only from hearsay. Stowell, however, informed him there was no

i discharge of his duties.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

The people of Essex county, according to the Index, must be heavily burdened with debt, there being suits pending in the Circuit Court to the amount of \$135,693.69 and in the County Court to the amount of \$85,192.70,

The Charlottesville Chronicle says: - Chickens, turkeys and fresh pork glut our market, and can be found for sale at stores in every part of the town. Ten cents per pound for chickens, twelve and a half for pork, and fourteen for turkeys are the ruling rates.

The whole amount of county and State taxes levied in Rockingham county and collected by the treasurer, for the year 1874, is \$89,818 94. Of this amount, \$30,613 51 was paid by the 1st of December, and the balance. \$59,205,37, has been put into the hands of collectors.

James Bryant, the negro who was arrested about a month ago, upon the charge of stealing a watch from Mr. J. V. Brooke of Warrenton. was tried Monday last at the Circuit Court of Fauquier, convicted of grand larceny, and sentenced to the Penitentiary for seven years. The dwelling house of Mr. Benj. F. Long,

situated about four miles east of Luray, on the turopike leading to Sperryville, was entirely consumed by fire, together with the greater portion of his household furniture, on Monday Dr. F. W. Powell, a prominent physician,

died at his residence in Queenstown, Queen Anne's county, Maryland, on Saturday last, of paralysis in the 64th year of his age. Dr. Powell was formerly a resident of Loudoun

Mr. Burdett Skinner got the small hone of his left arm broken on Thursday, at Fairfax station, in a personal difficulty with Mr John the number are Rev. Affred Curtis, formerly R. Taylor, section master on the Midland rail-

> Mrs. Alfrod J. Twyman, of Greene county, hung herself on Thursday night to the post of the bedstead on which her grand mother was sleeping. Her husband was absent at the

> Capt. Michael Noff, died, suddenly, at his residence, near New Mrrket. Shenandoah county, about daylight Thursday morning. He was aged about 76 years.

A watch valued at \$50 was stolen from Gen. W. B. Taliaferro, at the the Exchange Hotel, at Fishkill have suspended operations. The in Richmond, on Thursday night, white that gentleman was asleep in his room.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company will change their dining place after February next from Gordonsville to Charlottes-The debt of Charlottesville is only \$7,000

while the taxable property of the town is esti-Mr. John Henderson, a soldier of the War

of 1812, died in Orange county, on the 24th A Congressional Committee, consisting of ult., aged one hundred and one years.

Mineral Wealth.

READING, PA., Aug. 5, 1874. Lewis McKenzie, esq., President of the Wash-ington & Ohio Rallroad, Alexandria, Va.: DEAR SIR: I have just returned from a trip to Frederick, Hampshire, and Hardy counties, Bank, Montreal, Canada, was entered by Virginia. I had along with me an experienced burgiars, who blew up the safe, but before and most successful iron ore mining engineer | William, made a fierce tirade against the they had time to secure the money, policemen of our State, who acknowledges to me that the Funding bill, and likened the condition of the were attracted to the place by the noise. The range of iron one commencing at Rock Enon Springs and running to Capon Furnace, beats which must be stopped or all will be hurled to An accident occurred yesterday to a freight anything he ever saw, heard, or read of, in this or any other country. We found the out erop of the vein about 300 yards wide, on a ta railroad, two miles from Augusta, Ga. Five regular and undisturbed formation, for 25 miles in one stretch. According to his idea, there is enough iron ore there for twenty-five furnaces to last two bundred years; and the was received by the President at 12 o'clock yes | mining of those ores would not cost one-fifth what they cost in Pennsylvania. The cheapness of mining, he thinks, would overbalance the difference in freight, and we would have a far superior ore in richness of iron, and free of The claim of the State of Maryland against substances so injurious to iron, such as phosthe United States for ordunce stores seized phorus, sulphur, arsenie, &c. I have the in April, 1861, is still pending. It will prob- analysis of the ores for some fourteen miles on They are No. 1 in all respects, and are badly wanted among our furnace men. I spoke to one of the officers of the Philadelphia and I have his promise to look into the matter soon. I expect their chief mining engineer to see the property in about ton days. After your road from there loaded on to boats of the P & R. Coal & Iron Co., and brought to our Schuylkill Valley. What amount of subscribers do you want to reach Rock Enou Springs? What would the freight be on individual ore cars from Rock Enon Springs to tide water? I tative Stoweil, of Virginia, of selling a navai should know, in order to induce our heavy eapitalists engaged in manufacturing iron.-There are, at times, whole trains of iron ore, as many as twenty cars at a time, arriving in get into the pavy; that he had made strong ef- Reading from West Virginia, and the iron ore forts to that effect, but had not succeeded; that I refer to is far superior to those; and if there

> GRAND COMMANDERY OF VIRGINIA. - The grand annual Assembly of Knights Templar of Virginia was held in Richmond yesterday. The following officers were elected for the co

M. E. Wm. B. Isases, Grand Commander R R. Robert E. Withers, Deputy Grand Commander; V. E. L. F. Johnson, Grand Generalissimo ; V. E. James G. Bain, Grand Captain General: E. James Evans, Grand Treasurer E. John Dove, Grand Recorder; E. Georg: W. Dame, Grand Prelate; E. John F. Reg. nault, Grand Senior Warden; E. Peyton Celes, Grand Junior Warden; E. John L. Roper, Grand Standardbearer; E. James S. Moss, Grand Swordbearer; E. Wm. H. H. Lynn, Grand Warder; E. James C. Riddick, Grand Captain of Guard ; E. John F. Reguau t,

Grand Lecturer. GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS.-The Grand Chapter of Virginia of Royal Arch Masons assembled in Richmond on Thursday night, Grand High Priest. B. M. Harris presiding, and the following officers: W. H. Lum-Scribe; Thomas U. Dudley, Grand Treasurer; John Dove, Grand Secretary; Wm. B. Isaacs, S., J. J. Jordan, R. A. C.; Peyton S. Coles, third; H. C. Stevens, second; J. L. Roper, First Veil; J. E. Jefferson, Grand Chaplain. The address of the Grand High Priest gave cheering assurances of the peace and harmony in the State. There was a very large attendance of delegates from all parts of the State.

A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE. - We published yesterday from the Richmond D spatch, an interesting account of the romantic journey of two little girls, aged respectively six and seven years, from California to Richmond, in search of their father, whom they found at that place. The romance of the thing, however, is sadly Tourmaline, "and Jules Verue's "Mysterious Just before the close of the committee, John Island;" and poems by R. H. Stoddard, E. Brady, a member of the House of Delegates of the same paper, who announces that the marred by the statement of a correspondent of such as imposing the tax upon sales instead of upon purchases, and estimating upon prospective rather than past sales.

C. Stedman, John Hay, and F. W. Bourdillon. In "Topics of the Time" Dr. Helland writes about "National Politics," "Room at the Top" and "Rivalism," "The Cabinet" contains N. Gilbert has obtained evidence which leads

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The Sublime and the Ridiculous, "Sale of the House of Delegates of the House of the Fair of the House of the House of the Fair of the House of "girls," who were aged 12 and 16 years, were him to suppose that the recent assaults upon his private character were part of an organized conspiracy to injury his standing as a minister.

In position of General Superintendent of the Chesaphis peaks & Onio R. R. and has entered upon the conspiracy to injury his standing as a minister.

In position of General Superintendent of the Chesaphis peaks & Onio R. R. and has entered upon the discharge of his duties.

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VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, on Thursday, after the reception and reference of a number of House bills, the bill to incorporate the Winchester Building Company, and the bill to amend the act to to day, says:

The Heradon tragedy continues the leading.

The Heradon tragedy continues the leading. changing its name to Orkney, were passed.

Bills were reported to punish desertion on he part of husbands or parents; to amend the Code'in relation to the maintenance of illegitimate children; to amend the Code in regard to the penalty of it junction bonds; to amend the Code in relation to process upon indictments, presentments or informations, with the recommendation that the Senate insist upon its bill: to provide for the appointment of fish commissioners for the State of Virginia; to amend the Code in relation to bridges between counties; incorporating the Albemarle Home Mutual Fire Lesurance Company; and authorizing the sale of certain church property in Shenandoah

Resolutions of inquiry were adopted into the expediency of amending the Code so as to insert therein the recommendation of the revisers of the Code of 1849; into the expediency of so amending the Code as to provide that appeals shall be allowed in all cases from the judgments of the justices of the peace; into the expediency of providing by law for renting out the various shops of the penitentiary, and The aboution of all offices connected with that institution; and instructing the Committee on Constitutional Amendments to inquire into the expediency of so amending the constitution as to prohibit directors and retained attornevs for railroad companies from holding seats in either branch of the General Assembly.

Bills were introduced to authorize the issue of revenue certificates receivable in payment of all dues to the State, and to provide for their being exchanged for United States currency at par; and to amend the Code in regard to the

construction of statutes. The bill for the reassessment of the lands of the Commonwealth was discussed until ad-

In the House of Delegates several leaves of

absence were granted. Bills were introduced to authorize the James River and Kanawha Company to execute a mortgage (for an amount not exceeding \$3. 000,000), and to authorize a guarantee thereof by the cities of Norfolk, Richmond and Lynchburg; to prevent internal improvement companies from assigning their charters to others; and to incorporate Broaddus Female College at Wischester; and a resolution as to the expediency of requiring the Court of Appeals to so arrange their docket as that all appeals from each judicial district (except criminal eases) shall be docketed together, and afterwards called and tried according to their position on the docket; also petitions of Frederick Horne, jr., M. D., of Fauquier, to be relieved from an erroneous assessment of taxes; and of citizens of Augusta county for a law to protect

Bills were passed to incorporate the Southern Historical Society; authorizing the funding of 5 per cent, registered State stock into 6 per cent, stock at the rate of five-sixths of two-thirds of such stock and interest as of 1st of July, 1871; to amend the Code in relation to special terms of Circuit Courts; and to amend the Code in relation to the militia.

The bill to prevent counterfeit or improperly-obtained coupous from being received in payment of taxes, &c., due the State, was debated and laid over till the 7th of January.

During the debate Mr. Round, of I State to a train rushing toward a precipice, destruction. Neither the constitution nor the Supreme Court can prevent the sovereign people from saving themselves, as they must do by crushing the Funding bill under foot.

The bill to proteet the city of Richmond in making a subscription to the capital stock of the Trans-Aileghany Narrow Gauge Railroad Company was debated for some time, and finally ordered to be engrossed.

In the Senate, yesterday, a bill was reported to incorporate the town of Fairfax in the county of that name, and one to promote the farming interest of Virginia.

A bill was introduced to amend the Code relative to the meeting of the General Assembly; and a resolution to inquire into the expediency of doing away with the Constitutional requirements for assessing land every fifth year; and one reported amending the Code relative to hunting on the lands of others.

A petition was presented from Norfolk merchants for the abolition of the inspection laws Bills were passed for the relief of H. H. Weir, and for the protection of sheep in Fair-

fax county. The bill for the assessment of the lands of the Commonwealth was debated till the hour

of adjournment.

In the House of Delegates bills were passed providing for the assessment of the shares of banks, and protecting the city of Richmond for assisting to build a narrow-gauge railroad. The bill allowing the clerks of school boards three cents per head for publishing once in three years the children in their school distriets was ordered to be engrossed.

Letter from Hamilton.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.] HAMILTON, LOUDOUN COUNTY, Dec. 18 .-The members of Hamilton Lodge, No. 37, A. F. & A. M., celebrated the first anniversary of which body has to pass upon the question and the dedication of their hall, last night, by an oyster supper and a good time generally. Maj. J. J. White delivered an address, said by those who had the pleasure of listening to it to have been something unusually good. It is a pity that so good a thing should have been deliver ed to so small an audience. The Major is a fine orator, a popular young man, and it is prophesied by the knowing ones he will be our next Country Treasurer.

The Hatcher mystery is still unexplained. Last Monday night the blinds were opened around the house, and last night another stone thrown in over the door. They have quit watch ing and keep the rooms darkened and take no notice of the visitors. The secrescy of these visits, the sure aim of the thrower, and the fruitless efforts to discover the least clae to his whereabouts or any trace of him, either before or after the throwing, have induced the belief among many that some supernatural agency is employed. We hope the perpetrator

Young Mariners - We are informed by a correspondent at Potomac City that on Monray last, two boys, one a son of Mr. Merritt, Blackmore aged ten, and the other a colored took a small boat and unneticed, paddled out number of men employed in breaking so into the river, a storm prevailing at the time. breaking large boulders into pieces about Night came and the children being missed size of "nut coal." This stone will be usearch was made, and it was ascertained that for grading and paving 42 street from the At they had taken the boat. Messrs. Curtiss and senal gate to Misseuri avenue. James Davis took a sail boat and went in pursuit of the youths, but returned about mid- making be tried in Alexandria. Take upnight without having discovered the little boat instance, the boulders and large couble and its precious crew. The parents of the on Prince street, between Royal and Part; children now almost distracted, gave up all chase a dozen stone hammers and put hope. The hunt was renewed on the morrow the hands of the chain gang and break up but no tidings could be had. Later in the day large stone to nut size, and then repave. a row boat containing three persons was seen stone taken up and properly broken w approaching from the Maryland side and as it make a bed from four to six inches in the neared the wharf it proved to be the missing ness. To get a uniformity of size have a conf their entire trip; that they had plenty of money. and met their father, according to appointment, at the house of the writer. This reads ment, at the house of the writer. This reads may had been driven by the prevailing storm into Maryland Point, and had taken reffuge from serve. Use the prison labor and the wine more naturally than the first statement, though the cold in an old har and had a serve to be the missing wire seive made with holes, say two inches square, and use such as pass through this serve. Use the prison labor and the wine more naturally than the first statement, though the cold in an old had a serve to be the missing wire seive made with holes, say two inches and met their father, according to appoint had been driven by the prevailing storm into more naturally than the first statement, though the cold in an old box, and by rubbing each money," and we would soon have smooth and

The Herndon Tragedy.

In addition to the facts in the case, the report of the evidences and the dying declaration, of Mr and Mrs. Herndon, heretofore pub-

don died on Friday evening. A post-mortem examination was held by Drs. Smoot and Leache on Saturday last, when it was discovered that a blow over one of his eyes had caused two fractures of the skull, one across the forehead and the other across the tem ple, which were the cause of his death We are informed by Dr. Leache that his fee were terribly frozen, and would have required amputation to avoid mortification, had not death from the blows intervened. It will be remembered that when found in the field on Friday morning after the occurrence of the tragedy, Mr. Herndon was in his stocking feet and had been thus exposed for several hours in a cold rain, and treezing night and "When Fouks was first arrested on the day

after the murder and robbery he was committed to jail for a hearing on the following Mon day. On that day Mr. Herudon was so cer tain that he was fast recovering from, what has since proven his death, that he sent word to the justice to postpone the examination un til Tuesday the 15th inst. when he thought he would be able to attend and testify. At this time it was noised about and freely, but rather privately hinted, that the terrible carrieg and mangling of the old folks might have been the result of a domestic quarrel between them selves, and the murder of the little colored be was for the purpose of hiding the crime, and that the wife had been left for dead by he husband. To give some coloring to this year falacious view of the case, it was stared that Mrs. Herndon had given her attendants to un derstand that she knew all about the affair but posicively refused to talk on the subject, or to give the name of the perpetrator. Her de ing declaration must not only disipate any such belief as this, but fully substantiates the evi dence of her husband. "Fouks was taken before Justices II.

Woodyard and Whiting on Tuesday last, and fully committed to await the action of the grand jury, on the second Monday in January. Fork is of small statue, perhaps five feet three four inches high, and will weigh one hundre and twenty pounds. His color is very dark His confinement, or perhaps fear, has told esiderably on him, and while the examinad was going on his looks were wild and exerciand he did not seem to comprehend his surroundings, nor did he appear to know whether he was undergoing a trial for his life, or wheth er preparations were being made for his exemtion. His looks do not indicate a vicio disposition, and no one would single him om of a crowd of half a dozen negroes, as the who would be likely to commit such a fe crime as he stands accused with, inde seems impossible that he could have eted the murders, and then with the hot of his victims streaming from his finger the house, unless prompted and backed by mons of the bottomless pit. When arrested the morning after the butchery he was asing his former master, Mr. John H. O'R. who lives about two miles from the Hernila place, in butchering bogs, and was besonwith blood, which effectually obliterate is the blood stains from the human gore which h must have born if he perpetrated the foul deed. Mr. Meredith who was first employed by Mr. O'Rear to defend the prisoner abanthough Mr. O'Rear, the boy's tormer master had come forward and offered to pay a good portion of his counsel's fees, no one else, not even those who had pretended to be the friends" of the negro, had come forward and of

Congress.

fered assistance in this!time of uced.

In the Senate, yesterday, no business was transacted, the Senators participating in the reception of the King of the Sanwich Island, In executive session a number appointments in the by the President during the vacation were confirmed, the most prominent being James W Marshall, as First Assistant Postmaster Gen eral, and Wm. Burnett as Supervising Inspec tor General of Steamboats. The Senate adjourned over till Monday.

In the House of Representatives after the reception of King Kalakana, the Ligislative and Executive Appropriation bill was taken up, and an amendment allowing United States Marshals and the clerks of the United States Courts mileage, in certein cases, brought on debate, in which a vigorous onslaught wi made on the Department of Justice by Mi Beck and Mr. Speer. The appropriation \$500,000 for the Asylum for Disabled Volume teers was stricken out, there being a sufficient fund already provided for its support for the next fiscal year. The bill, as amended, was then passed, and the House adjourned ustill

RUMORED EPISCOPAL CHURCH TROUBLES. -For several days past a rumor has prevailed in church circles, to the effect that during a recent burial service at Mount Calvary Episcopal Church, prayers for the dear were offered by one of the assistant priests, Rev. Mr. Perry.

It is also stated that Rev. A. M. Randolph of Emmanuel Church, and Rev. Mr. Peterkin. of Memorial Church, who were present took exception to the introduction of such prayer and after some correspondence on the suld with Mr. Perry, referred the matter to t Standing Committee of the Episcopal Churdecide whether it is a proper matter to pr seut Rev. Mr. Perry for trial before the oc siastical court of this diocese. Yesterday a re presentative of the Gazatte called upon Res. Mr. Randolph, who declined making any state ment whatever in reference to the matter. -Baltimore Gazette.

The ecclesiastical difficulty arising out of the alleged offering of prayers for the dead by the Rev. Mr. Perry, one of the assistant minist of Mount Calvary Episcopal Church, as rejued in The American yesterday, does not to have as yet reached the point of a for presentment. In reference to this matter ollowing communication has been receiv 4: To the editor of the Bultimore Ame ion :

Sir -There has been no presentment of Rev Mr. Perry by the Standing Commit e-Diocese. No papers have been brought to notice of the Bishop which could require bring about an ecclesiastical trial. Your stell

ent servant, -Baltimore American.

[COMMUNICATED.

HOW STREETS CAN BE IMPROVED - 1: out Board of Public Works will take the troub. visit Washington, they will find at the loot my aged tweive, while playing at Bangs' wharf 42 street, adjuning the Arsenal wall, a lar-

I would suggest that this system of